

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08021 291547Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9201
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8021

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS

REF: STATE 164007

1. INASMUCH AS USG OFFICIALS HAVE FREQUENTLY MADE STATEMENTS DEPLORING PARTICULAR ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA, IT IS NOT EASY TO FIND WAYS OF MAKING THE POINT MORE EFFECTIVELY. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT A NEW STATEMENT MIGHT ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION AND BE REGARDED SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUSLY IF IT WERE A GENERAL ONE WHICH ADDRESSED ITSELF TO ALL CASES OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT UNARMED CIVILIANS, BLACK OR WHITE, WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE POLITICAL ISSUES OF RHODESIA AND MANIBIA.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A STATEMENT SHOULD NOT ONLY EXPRESS OUR ABHORRENCE TOWARDS SUCH ACTIONS BUT ALSO THE DAMAGE THEY DO TO THE PROSPECTS FOR A
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NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH IF SUCCESSFUL WOULD SAVE THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS FUTURE COMBATANTS AS WELL AS NONCOMBATANTS. IT SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE OUR CONVICTION THAT EVEN THE STRONG PASSIONS STIRRED UP BY THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN RHODESIA AND MANIBIA CANNOT EXCUSE MERCILESS VIOLENCE WHICH IS DIRECTED AGAINST UNARMED BLACK OR WHITE CIVILIANS.

3. WE THINK THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE A PUBLIC ONE MADE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE TYPE OF STATEMENT WHICH WOULD ATTRACT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY. THE USE OF A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION, AS SUGGESTED IN PRETORIA'S 3648, WOULD BE AN UNUSUAL AN PERHAPS AN EFFECTIVE METHOD. US EMBASSIES SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE AS PART OF FORCEFUL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SAG, THE FRONT LINE STATES, NIGERIA AND, THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS, SMITH'S GOVERNMENT, THE PF AND SWAPO. SUCH REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH THE OFFENDING PARTIES DAMAGE THEIR OWN CAUSE WHEN THEY RESORT TO THIS TYPE OF VIOLENCE.

4. WE BELIEVE THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE SO CONSTRUCTED THAT IT WILL BE LOOKED UPON AS A BASIC PART OF THE STRUCTURE OF OUR POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS THE STRUCTURE OF OUR POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.
WYMAN

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